



Promoting a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people

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Encouraging the spirit of adventure and good citizenship

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Supporting local policing priorities through volunteering and giving young people a chance to be heard

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Inspiring young people to participate positively in their communities.

**Welcome to the April 2024 edition
of the National VPC Newsletter.
Cadets have been Springing into
action, and it's not even the
Summer yet!**

**This issue highlights the activities
& achievements of VPC Units,
Cadets, and Leaders across the
Police Forces
of
England & Wales.**

Do you have a story that can be shared with everyone? Has your Cadet unit done something to shout about?

If so, contact us at - vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk

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A Cadets Journey



This is **Megan**, she is a Volunteer Police Cadet with Lancashire. She is due to leave the VPC in June to start an Apprenticeship.

Megan's journey has not been an easy one but recently she has, as her Force VPC coordinator describes it, as having 'turned a corner' after being diagnosed with ADHD and Autism.

Megans' Mum recently emailed her VPC coordinator, and we felt it was important that it be shared more widely.

We often get asked 'What's the benefit of Cadets?'

It is hard to quantify what the VPC can do for the young people who take part in the programme - apart from giving Policing a tool to engage with young people, it is all about developing young people over the time they are with us into being their best selves.

Megan is one example of the impact the VPC can have, there are many more - if you have an example please let us know.

Megans Mum said -

'I Just thought I would let you know Megan has received her diagnosis of autism yesterday they said they are going to send us out her report. She also has her ADHD outcome appointment.

I want to say the biggest thankyou to yourself for all the support and effort you put into Megan. Without your help and understanding there is no doubt that Megan wouldn't be the success story she is today. The progress she has made since everyone got Involved has been tremendous. Jason, Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team, worked so hard with her and started to highlight that other issues that required looking at, thanks to Ashleigh, Children & Family Wellbeing, and to the Cadet Leaders who gave her the chance she needed to battle through her teenage years.

Since we have all started understanding her she has gone from strength to strength and even though every day can sometimes be a challenge for Megan and her family, she is advancing by the day.

I am sure she told you last week that she applied for an apprenticeship in a very good financial company in the Liver Buildings in Liverpool. Megan went from 100 interviewed to getting one of two jobs with this company. They are going to support her through all her qualifications and I think a working environment will suit her well. Unfortunately this job is 9 till 17.15 Monday to Friday and she said the only thing she is sad about is leaving Cadets but she hopes in the future she can do some work with the Police when she is settled there. Megan's brother Daniel can't wait to join Police Cadets because he has seen how much Megan has enjoyed it, so we hope that when he is 13 he could apply too.

If you could please thank absolutely everyone involved with helping Megan get all the help she needed up to this point we would be so grateful. Words are not enough to show our gratitude to you all.'

Well done to all in Lancashire VPC and to all our VPC schemes supporting and making a difference to Cadets like Megan, and good luck to Megan as she moves on from the VPC.



West Mercia Cadets receive awards.

At the recent West Mercia Police Quality Policing Awards, North Worcestershire **Cadet Kayleigh Morse** won the award for **Volunteer of the Year**.

Shortlisted alongside other exceptional volunteers from around the force, Kayleigh was presented with her award by Temporary Chief Constable Alex Murray having impressed the judges with her commitment despite several issues in her personal life.



At 17 years old and with only four years under her belt, Kayleigh has become one of the most experienced and capable cadets. She has come such a long way since she began her cadet journey as a shy 13-year-old. Kayleigh is credit to those who have the pleasure of working with her as well as herself. Despite battling her own personal difficulties outside of volunteering, she remains a confident, caring and highly committed cadet.

She has led by example with the highest number of community hours in the cohort, representing both West Mercia Police and the Volunteer Police Cadets to the highest possible standard. Kayleigh has supported local carnivals, charity fun runs, police open days and attended the annual remembrance parade.



On the 6th March Shropshire Police **Cadet Alfie Wigley** was awarded with the High Sheriff of Shropshire's **Outstanding young citizens award 2024**.

Alfie has worked in the community, supporting and assisting Safer Neighbourhood Officers, visiting vulnerable people, assisting with local policing operations, carrying out test purchasing operations designed to protect young people. He has been a visible presence in the community, providing reassurance.

He gives up his evenings and weekends in order to do this, signing himself up for things even if he may not find them enjoyable, understanding what needs to be done. Alfie is a nurturing person and mentors and supports new Cadets, showing kindness and compassion. He demonstrates mature levels of tact and diplomacy during difficult circumstances.

Pc Katie Le'Clere the unit leader added - *'During December last year we carried out an operation where we packed 200 gifts for elderly and vulnerable members of the Community. I was impressed by him when we attended a hospital ward as part of this initiative to deliver the gifts. This was a difficult environment and most of the Cadets required encouragement and guidance. Alfie went straight in to see the very poorly patients, sensitively and appropriately introducing himself. I was very impressed with his confident and mature approach.'*



Sussex finalists in national awards



Brighton and Hove Cadets - 'Fraud Awareness' Project was selected as a finalist for National CrimeBeat Award.

National CrimeBeat is the youth crime prevention charity of the High Sheriff's Association. The purpose of National CrimeBeat is to give recognition to the most innovative and successful crime prevention

projects carried out by young people.

The Brighton and Hove Police Cadet Unit have been working on a project to deliver crime prevention advice targeting younger people in the Brighton and Hove area.

Targeting misconceptions and highlighting that anyone could be a victim of fraud, the Cadets have been working hard attending community events and hubs to spread the word and deliver crime prevention advice. We are incredibly proud of the hard work of the Cadets and their commitment to helping their local community and being an inspiration to their peers.

The High Sheriff of East Sussex, Mr Richard Bickersteth, said "I have been very pleased to see the dedication and commitment of the Brighton and Hove Volunteer Police Cadet Unit in bringing this initiative together." "They have worked on it intensively for a few months." "Their commitment to genuinely providing fraud awareness to all ages, but especially their own peer group who are more frequently victims of identity fraud was moving to see. I am very proud of the work they have done on it."



There has been further success this year for Sussex Police Cadets. The Hailsham Police Cadet Unit have won the "Commended Award" for their Crimebeat submission "Let's Stop VAWG". The judges were really impressed with The Hailsham Unit's submission and they have been encouraged to continue to work on their project and submit this again in 2025.



Mini Cadets in Kent provide Social Action

A 9-week Mini Cadet programme was delivered to 12 students within **St Margarets Clitheroe Primary school** in Tonbridge from the 2nd January 2024 to the 5th March 2024.

During this time the cadets were provided with a package that enabled them to learn more about policing, breaking down barriers, keeping safe online, first aid, drill, fitness, team building, communication, problem solving and more as well as identifying a social action project that was affecting their local community.

The Cadets identified the skate park at Long Mead park Tonbridge, as an area of concern due to the graffiti that was affecting the area and meant only a small number of people were attending.

It prevented young people from enjoying the space. So, led by PCSO Matthew, she engaged with the local agencies regarding the best approach and authorisation to paint over the graffiti and once approved the date was set.

The mini cadets caution sign set the scene and the cadets donned their safety equipment, grabbed their brushes and paint and worked tirelessly to make the place look amazing. Every inch of graffiti has gone, and PC Hill went back a week later to check the area and still no new Graffiti, which is phenomenal.



The work by the Mini Cadets and their leaders alongside the school taking ownership of this project, working in partnership with local agencies and seeing it through to the end has made the space so welcoming and safe again.

A huge well done to all of those involved and the mini cadets who took pride in all their work and being the excellent citizens, they are.

Julia Lindon-Taylor, Mini & Junior Cadet Coordinator said *"This is what the cadet programme is all about. Changing lives, helping young people to learn and develop, do something positive in their community and building positive links with the police and staff. It was a proud moment to see their achievements during the award ceremony and to witness the smiles on each cadets face as they received their letter and certificate for completing the course.*

This would not have been possible without the passion, dedication, hard work and effort put in by PCSO Toni Matthew and PC Hills for bringing the programme to life. They truly are amazing".





Warwickshire Cadets assist at High Sherriff inauguration.

It was a privilege and honour for some of our **Warwickshire Police Cadets** to be involved in the inauguration of the newly appointed 690th High Sheriff of Warwickshire at the Old Shire Hall in Warwick on the 28th March.



Mrs Rajvinder Kaur Gill is the first Sikh Woman to take this ancient role in the UK, it was lovely meeting all the guests and being part of such a special day and history.



Norfolk Cadets tackle a challenge.

Great Yarmouth Police Cadets are working towards THE EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE CHALLENGE BADGE.

As part of the challenge Cadets are fundraising for The East Anglian Air Ambulance

They kicked off their fundraising with a Christmas Family Bingo Night and held an Easter Egg Raffle. Cadets have produced a puzzle book which they are selling and it is proving very popular!

To finish off our fundraising efforts, Cadet leader PC Heather Wright and Senior Cadet Alfie Howells are completing a Skydive in May.

Cadets have been highly motivated and leaders are very proud of their efforts -well done to all!

We hope to raise over £1500 which we will be presenting to EAAA when we visit for a tour in May 2024





Kent VPC - Dartford visit the Mets' mounted section & Dover Junior Cadets receive awards.



Dartford Cadets and Leaders visited the mounted branch at Lewisham Police Station on the 20th February 2024. This was a new experience for many and meeting the horses took courage due to their sheer size and stature. Not to mention the kicking of their stable doors to get our attention.

One of the mounted branch officers Anna, showed the cadets the equipment required for police officers and the horses too. From hats to saddles, pads for shins and eye guards to keep the horses safe when out tackling large grounds or in volatile situations.

The training for these horses is phenomenal and the care they receive is of the highest standard.

The cadets embraced the visit and were brave, feeding the horses carrots, apples and polos which went down a storm.

Great to link in with our neighbouring force and learn about an area of policing that the cadets may not have known much about, giving them food for thought and if passionate about taking their pathway into the mounted branch they have seen a little bit of how it runs and listen first hand as to what it is like to be a Met Police Mounted branch officer and how dedicated they are to their work and horses. A great experience for cadets and leaders from Kent.

The first ever intake of **Junior Cadets** were presented with certificates to celebrate 9 months in the unit.

Two cadets were nominated for awards for the Best Volunteer and Best Cadet categories and received shields to mark the occasion.

The unit Lead Mark Ball stated *"This was a rewarding evening, which enabled us as leaders to give back to the cadets for all their hard work and commitment as Junior Cadets within Kent Police. Some have volunteered over 100 hours already within a short space of time, litter picking, clearing heritage parks and more, whilst being respectful, polite and courteous to all they meet"*.

Cadet Manager - Anne-Marie Moore and Chief Inspector Jason Wenlock commented *"The programme, first in Kent, has gone from strength to strength. The leaders have been instrumental in it's success and it was clear to see the enjoyment on the cadets faces as they acted out one of tasks of theft, each playing a part so they felt included. The confidence in each cadet has grown from day one and are amazing young people"*.

Well done to all for their tireless work week after week to help the Junior Cadets become phenomenal citizens and the amazing young people they are today.



VPC schemes come together to talk all things, Cadets.

For the first time since 2020, Volunteer Police Cadet scheme coordinators from all over England & Wales came together in March, face to face, to talk and share good practice about the VPC.

The event was funded from part of the National VPC teams successful bid to the Department of Culture Media & Sport post COVID Uniformed Youth Fund. Which saw the National VPC obtain funding to support forces increase their cadet places

Hosted by the Royal Navy Reserve at HMS President under the watchful gaze of Tower Bridge, the 75 delegates from 36 VPC schemes discussed various themes throughout the day.



VPC scheme coordinators and Citizens in Policing managers discussed the successes and challenges in running a youth group within Policing .

Also present was Deputy Chief Constable Rob Jones, who is the National Police Chiefs Council lead for the Volunteer Police Cadets

Northumbria, Kent and Durham VPC schemes gave presentation on aspects of their VPC programs.

It was a great day.

The National VPC team (pictured right), along with DCC Jones, thank everyone for their continued hard work





Durham Cadets get active.

Durham Police cadets were very lucky to receive funding from British Engines to allow the purchase of sports equipment for both **North** and **South Units**.

This means each unit has their own set of equipment to use at any time. The cadets have had loads of fun using the equipment, especially the Unihoc sets.

During February Half term our Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award participants attended a training weekend at Carlton in Cleveland at the foot of the North Yorkshire Moors. They spent the weekend in very comfortable scout accommodation, however, braved the weather to practice their navigation skills and camp craft. They even managed to pitch their tents in the dark!

A fun weekend learning new skills for their qualifying expedition



More recently Durham cadets were very excited to visit Cleveland & Durham Tactical Training Centre. They were able to see all the equipment the ARV use, learn about the training the firearms officers undertake.

However, the icing on the cake was a visit to the PRISim room where the cadets were given the opportunity to try the firearms simulator!





Northumbria Cadets deliver social action.

Cadets from **Gateshead VPC** put their baking skills to the test to support one of several cake sales taking place across the area command, to raise money for the Mercy's Mighty Fight campaign.

Mercy Cuthbertson is an adorable, loving and highly sociable little girl from North Tyneside who started experiencing issues with her balance and vision.

Following these symptoms developing, MRI Scans and medical investigations were conducted and she was diagnosed with a DIPG which is an aggressive brain tumour.

Fundraising will help towards financing vital life prolonging medications, clinical trials abroad, equipment, specialised care and giving Mercy the best life possible, spending precious time with her parents

Cadets worked together in teams to decide what to make, source ingredients and then bake and decorate their cakes. Unit leaders were then tasked with quality assuring testing the bakes with a cuppa before the sale! Great effort team Gateshead!



Cadets from the **North Tyneside & Northumberland** Units recently completed a social action project in partnership with the Cedarwood Trust, North Shields and Rise Mental Health Support on tackling stigma around food poverty.

Cadets research prejudice around food poverty amongst their peers, before arriving at the concept of healthy meal kit packages



Cadets researched budget friendly healthy meal ideas, before designing corresponding recipe cards and filming 'cook along' guides, before promoting the initiative in a local supermarket generating donations of meal kit ingredients from shoppers.

Cadets then packaged up the ingredients into meal kits, which were distributed to local food banks. donation, below. A brilliant team effort, and a great result after weeks of hard work





Dorset open a 5th VPC Unit



Dorset Police opened their 5th unit on Monday April 15th and welcomed new Cadets and Leaders on their Cadet Journey with the new **Blanchford Unit** (pictured above).

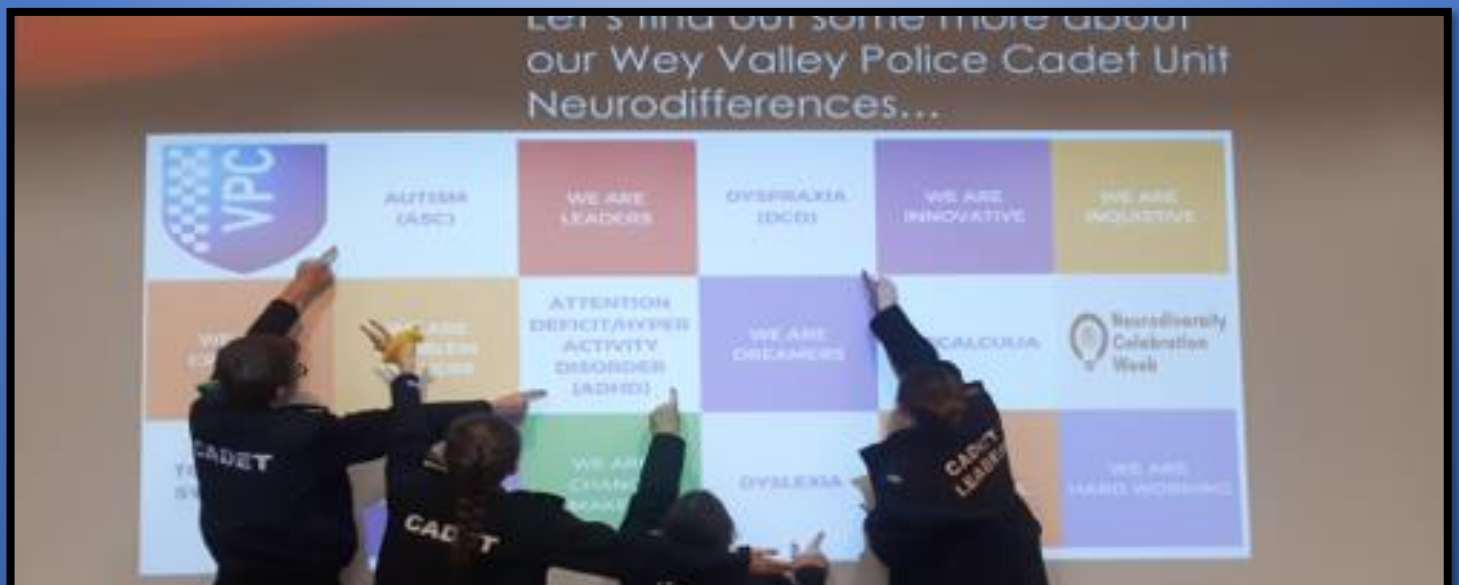
Its been a busy couple of months for Dorset as back in February 9 Cadets from both their **Bournemouth** and **Christchurch** units joined forces with the charity

The Parks Foundation to plant 9 trees, different types, in a local community green space, to help address the Dutch Elm crisis.

The trees will hopefully live for hundreds of years so the cadets can go along and see how the trees are doing for many years to come and take pride in the fact they planted them! Muddy work but someone had to do it!



In March **Weymouth Cadets** did a fantastic job of recognising Neurodiversity Celebration week and Dorset launched their Wellbeing Passport across all units.





Promotion for Lincolnshire Cadets

The **Lincoln VPC Unit** ran their promotion process this term and were delighted to promote some new section leaders.



Elsewhere - **Skegness Cadets** were delighted to receive a letter thanking them for their hard work last summer supporting Operation Atlantis.

Operation Atlantis brought together Lincolnshire Police, HM Coastguard, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), NCI Coastwatch and East Lindsey District Council in a two-phase approach to ensure safety during the summer season



Grantham Cadets wanted to raise money for the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance Service and decided to host a bake sale at the local station to do so.

They baked and came into the station during their half-term break to raise £100 to donate to charity.

Finally, Cadets from units across Lincolnshire also recently travelled to Lincolnshire Police HQ to support the latest Special Constabulary cohort's attestation.

It was a great chance for the Cadets to learn more about different volunteer roles and functions within Lincolnshire Police, and the cadets did a wonderful job of greeting guests and setting up some of the event.



West Yorkshire Cadets support local charities.



Volunteer Police Cadets from **Kirklees and Wakefield District** supported Wakefield Hospice but volunteering at the Wakefield 10k race on Sunday 24th March.

The cadets and their leaders assisted at the Water Point and at the finish area, and with the Junior run.



PS Clarke, Kirklees Cadet leader said - "This was a great opportunity for the Cadets to assist Wakefield Hospice in their fund raising."

The Bradford Policing District in West Yorkshire has 4 Cadet Units based across the district. This year their Units have been looking at the work carried out by various charities and of course they wanted to be able to support wherever possible. The Cadets chosen charities this year are the Literacy Trust and BASE - Bradford Adventure Support Enterprise. Both charities will benefit from the activities if the Cadets some of which are below along with other events that are planned in the future.



Bradford East Unit (left) carried out 8 duties over 2 weekends at their local supermarket in order to support this year's Marie Curie Daffodil appeal. They were delighted to raise an amazing £1,204.27!

Not to be left out our **Bradford North Unit** along with the **Bradford South & Bradford West** joined forces with **Bradford East** and held a simultaneous Bake Sale at 3 Police stations across the district on Tuesday 26th March 2024.

The Cadets baked or bought both sweet and savoury goodies that were sold to officers and staff.

The event provided the Cadets a great opportunity to raise the awareness of the Cadet programme as well as to encourage new leaders to come forward.



Across the 3 sales the Cadets raised £189.15 and the level of baking was certainly worthy of a Hollywood handshake!



Humberside Cadets get onboard.



Cadets from the **Beverley Unit** were invited to visit the Marine Section part of Humberside Police's Marine Protect (@HPMarineProtect).

The officers within the team are specially trained officers who are responsible for policing any task that takes place on or around water - which Humberside has a lot of!

The Cadets were able to take a trip out on the River Humber on the 'Humber Protector' one of four high-powered boats tasked with looking after the waters in our area. The cadets were able to learn about a totally different side of policing which includes tackling criminals who use the water to transport drugs, weapons, counterfeit goods and even those transporting people entering the UK illegally.

They also had the chance to view the Humber Bridge in a way they had never done before. The officers said they couldn't have asked for a more enthusiastic and engaging group of young people.

A great testament to the young people who are part of our cadet scheme. Hopefully more cadets in the Humberside Area will be able to visit and take a trip aboard in the coming months."





Volunteer Police Cadets

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